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U.S. Department
of Transportation

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
United States Coast Guard
Eighth Coast Guard District

501 Magazine Street
New Orleans, LA. 70130-3396
Staff Symbol: (mor)
Phone: 504-589-3656

16465
03 April 1998

From: Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District
To: Distribution

Subj: REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR OIL DISCHARGES FROM OUTER
CONTINENTAL SHELF NPDES-PERMITTED SOURCES

1. On 18 September 1997, members of the Offshore Operators Committee met with district staff and the commanding officers of the coastal marine safety offices to discuss the oil discharge reporting requirements for National Point Discharge Elimination System-permitted sources in coastal waters. It was agreed by all in attendance that Section 311 of the Clean Water Act does not define oil discharges from NPDES-permitted sources (whether the system is operating correctly or not) as reportable oil discharges. This conclusion is supported by Commandant Decisions on Appeal. The attendees agreed that the proper policy is for sources to report discharges in violation of their NPDES-permitted processes to the Environmental Protection Agency and Mineral Management Service (if appropriate) and not to the Coast Guard. Discharges of oil resulting from other activities not part of a NPDES process will still be reported to the Coast Guard National Response Center.
2. In order to institute this agreement, commanding officers shall investigate all reports of discharges from OCS facilities at which time the operator must provide sufficient explanation to establish that the discharge was the result of a NPDES process. Having ascertained that the discharge is from a NPDES source, the marine safety office shall terminate the investigation and note that it has been referred to EPA under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act. This policy is limited to discharges from OCS facilities in the Eighth District.
3. If you need information or assistance, please call CDR Stanton, Chief, Marine Response Branch at 504-589-3656.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. T. Desmond".
C. T. DESMOND
By direction

Dist: Eighth District Gulf Region MSOs